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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE Security Committee

SECOM-D-393 17 October 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Resource Management Staff

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FROM:

Security Committee Staff

SUBJECT:

"Fact Of"

- 1. On 12 October 1978, I was advised by Arnold Kantor, at State/INR, that State was handing out the list of Q's and A's to their public speakers for use in handling questions from public audiences while talking on the proposed SALT Treaty. I advised Kantor that this went past the bounds of NSC instructions that the only entity authorized to answer questions about the "fact of" is OSD/PA. Kantor felt that was a restraint which obtained only through 2 October 1978.
- 2. We agreed guidance should be forthcoming from NSC and you then served as our intermediary to General Rosenberg of the NSC Staff. His advice was that OSD/PA should continue to be the government's sole spokesman on this issue and suggested that the loop be closed by having the DCI's PAO prevail upon his NSC counterpart to contact the State PAO and reaffirm the NSC position.
- 3. As it turned out, since Mr. Scheckter was not available at NSC on 13 October, Mr. Hetu contacted Mr. Reston at State PAO and asked him to get things back on track. Mr. Reston agreed to handle the matter. Late that afternoon a Mr. Paul Bunge of the Counsellor's Office at State Department contacted Mr. Hetu and advised that State planned on continuing to provide the Q's and A's to their speakers for use in handling questions from the floor.

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4. In the face of this last State action it would appear that the only way to get the issue back on track is for the NSC to directly convey their wishes to the State Department, but probably at a higher level than PAO. Anything you can do to assist in this matter would be appreciated.